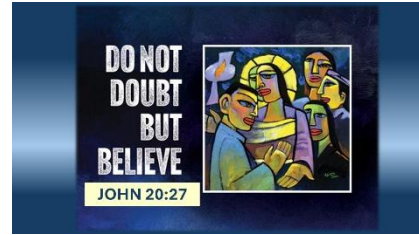


April 12th, 2026 Lectionary Notes

The Readings on This Day

****Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

Second Sunday of Easter



The church keeps Easter for eight Sundays. Early Christians referred to Sunday as the eighth day, as if the normal week of seven is miraculously completed in an extraordinary eighth day. The fifty days culminates at Pentecost. Each Sunday, individually and communally, we meet the risen Christ in word and sacrament.

[Acts 2:14a, 22-32](#)

Throughout the Sundays of the fifty days of Easter, passages from Acts proclaim the meaning of the resurrection. Although many contemporary Christians do not share Luke's hermeneutic, we build this Sunday upon this early Christian proclamation of God's raising Jesus from the place of the dead to be the power of the church emerging throughout the world. Each Sunday we are witnesses of the resurrection.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

Acts leads the way for all of today's readings to invite us to believe. We sing [Psalm 16](#), a song that affirms our trust in God. Christians have seen the metaphor of the cup (v. 5) as a picture of our wine of communion, and Sheol (v. 10) as a simile for the power of death. The psalm refers several times to God's right hand: and in John's gospel we see the wounds of the crucifixion in that right hand.

[1 Peter 1:3-9](#)

In Year A, the second readings throughout the Easter season read semi-continuously through the letter of 1 Peter, which can be seen as an early example of post-baptismal catechesis. What does it mean to be baptized into the death and resurrection of Christ? This passage readies us to hear the narrative concerning Thomas and John's words about those who have seen the risen Christ and those who have not, all of whom are called to "an indescribably and glorious joy."

[John 20:19-31](#)

The church continues the pattern alluded to in John's gospel, of assembling on the first day of the week to receive the Spirit of the cross and resurrection and to exchange the peace of Christ. As we expect of John, the narrative in chapter 20 testifies to the identity of Christ as Lord and God. For Christians, to touch Christ is to touch God, and we do this in the flesh of our neighbor's hand at the peace and with the bread of Christ in our palm at communion.